

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6453
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EC, JA
SUBJECT: JAPAN-EC REACH AGREEMENT ON TRADE

1. SUMMARY: AFTER ANOTHER LATE NIGHT SESSION JAPAN AND
EC REACHED AGREEMENT ON JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE RELEASED
4 P.M., MARCH 24. COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS BASIC OUTLINE OF
STRAUSS-USHIBA JOINT STATEMENT, CITES EC GROWTH TARGET,
IS SOMEWHAT LESS SPECIFIC ON JAPANESE GROWTH AND
CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS TARGETS, RECORDS AGREE-
MENT TO WORK TOWARD SUCCESSFUL MTN, REHEARSES PARTIES'
POSITIONS ON SELECTIVE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS,
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CONTAINS RATHER VAGUE LANGUAGE ON INCREASE OF MANU-
FACTURED IMPORTS, PROMISES SIMPLIFICATION OF JAPANESE
PROCEDURES ON IMPORTS AND REPEATS JAPANESE COMMITMENTS ON
AID. AGREEMENT ON HANDLING OF AIRCRAFT AND SPECIFIC
TARIFF CUTS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. TESHIMA, DIRGEN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY,

HANDED EMIN TEXT OF JAPAN-EC JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE RELEASED AT HAERKAMP-USHIBA PRESS CONFERENCE AT 4 P.M., MARCH 24. DENMAN IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE US DEBRIEFING AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE. WE WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:

3. "ON MARCH 22 TO 24, 1978, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AND THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MR. NOBUHIKO USHIBA, AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION, MR. WILHELM HAERKAMP, UNDERTOOK CONSULTATIONS REGARDING PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF JAPAN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. BOTH SIDES STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE COMMUNITY AND TO DEVELOPING A COMMON APPROACH TO WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND TO THAT END TO COOPERATING CLOSELY BOTH BILATERALLY AND IN MULTILATERAL FORA.

4. "IN PARTICULAR MINISTER USHIBA AND VICE-PRESIDENT HAERKAMP AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING STEPS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO AVOID INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT AND A WORLDWIDE REVERSION TO PROTECTIONISM.

5. "ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND PAYMENTS BALANCES - BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERNATIONAL ADJUSTMENT OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND MONETARY RELATIONS, AND THAT THE ACCUMULATION OF LARGE CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUSES WAS NOT APPROPRIATE, IN THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

6. "IN THIS CONNECTION, BOTH SIDES CONFIRMED THEIR COMMON RECOGNITION THAT GREATER STABILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SITUATION WAS ESSENTIAL. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK BOTH SIDES AGREED TO PURSUE POLICIES AIMED AT ACHIEVING LASTING NON-INFLATIONARY ECONOMIC GROWTH.

7. "VICE-PRESIDENT HAERKAMP DREW ATTENTION TO THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE IN MEMBER STATES IN REDUCING INFLATION RATES AND DEFICITS ON CURRENT ACCOUNT, WITH FURTHER PROGRESS ON THESE LINES FORESEEN IN 1978.

8. "HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE NARROWING OF DISPARITIES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES HAD ENLARGED THE SCOPE FOR PURSUING NON-INFLATIONARY AND SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH, ON THE BASIS OF COORDINATED POLICIES THROUGHOUT THE

COMMUNITY, AND THAT THE EC AS A WHOLE AIMED AT 4.0-4.5
PERCENT REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH TARGET IN THE COURSE OF 1978.

9. "THE VICE-PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT BEST ENDEAVOURS
CN RATES AND DEFICITS ON CURRENT ACCOUNT, WITH
FURTHER PROGRESS ON THESE LINES FORESEEN IN 1978.

8. "HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE NARROWING OF DISPARITIES
BETWEEN MEMBER STATES HAD ENLARGED THE SCOPE FOR PURSUING
NON-INFLATIONARY AND SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH, ON THE
BASIS OF COORDINATED POLICIES THROUGHOUT THE
COMMUNITY, AND THAT THE EC AS A WHOLE AIMED AT 4.0-4.5
PERCENT REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH TARGET IN THE COURSE OF 1978.

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9. "THE VICE-PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT BEST ENDEAVOURS
CONTINUED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY MEMBER STATES TO REALIZE
BETTER EQUILIBRIUM OF THEIR RESPECTIVE BALANCE OF
PAYMENTS POSITIONS.

10. "THE MINISTER STATED THAT JAPAN'S REAL GROWTH
TARGET FOR JFY 1978 WAS 7 PERCENT THROUGH THE EXPANSION
OF DOMESTIC DEMAND BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION OF A STABLE
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SITUATION, AND THAT IT WAS THE

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

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INTENTION OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ALL REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS TARGET. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE OFFICIAL DISCOUNT RATE WAS REDUCED BY THE BANK OF JAPAN TO 3.5 PERCENT AS FROM 16 MARCH.

11. "THE MINISTER STATED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATED THE OVERALL CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS IN JFY 1978 TO BE ABOUT ONE THIRD SMALLER THAN IN JFY 1977.

12. "ALTHOUGH THE RECENT FLUCTUATIONS OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET ARE SERIOUSLY AFFECTING THE JAPANESE ECONOMY, THE MINISTER STATED THAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ESTIMATE SET OUT ABOVE, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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MAXIMIZE ITS EFFORT TO REDUCE THE OVERALL CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC DEMAND AND A SERIES OF NEW MEASURES FOR IMPROVING THE ACCESS OF FOREIGN GOODS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET.

13. "IN JFY 1979 AND THEREAFTER, UNDER PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ALL REASONABLE EFFORTS WOULD BE CONTINUED WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER REDUCING JAPAN'S CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS. THE MINISTER FURTHER STATED THAT IT WAS HIS EXPECTATION THAT JAPAN'S CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS WITH THE EC WOULD DECLINE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXPECTED REDUCTION OF THE OVERALL CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS IN JFY 1978. HE THOUGHT THAT SIGNS OF A CHANGE IN THE TREND TOWARDS THIS REDUCTION WOULD BEGIN TO BE SEEN BY THE AUTUMN OF 1978.

14. "BOTH SIDES AGREED TO EXAMINE TOGETHER DEVELOPMENTS AND RESULTS AT REGULAR INTERVALS. AD HOC REVIEW MIGHT ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN AS REQUIRED. IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD THE FIRST SUCH ASSESSMENT IN JUNE 1978.

15. "GENERAL TRADE AND PAYMENTS OBJECTIVES - BOTH SIDES STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE OPEN TRADING SYSTEM AND COUNTERING PROTECTIONIST

TENDENCIES. TO THIS END, BOTH SIDES REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MULTI-LATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO MEETING THE TARGET OF AN OUTLINE OF THE FINAL PACKAGE IN JULY OF THIS YEAR.

16. "BOTH SIDES AGREED TO ACHIEVE RESULTS AS SUBSTANTIAL AS POSSIBLE IN ALL FIELDS OF THE MTN'S ON THE BASIS OF OVERAL RECIPROCITY. ON TARIFFS, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO MAKE AS MUCH EFFORT AS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE ON A UNCLASSIFIED

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RECIPROCAL BASIS TARIFFS ON ITEMS OF INTEREST TO EACH OTHER IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

L7. "AS REGARDS THE ISSUE OF SAFEGUARDS, WHILE TAKING NOTE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON THE PROBLEM OF SELECTIVE APPLICATION, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO NEGOTIATE ACTIVELY, IN FULL COORDINATION WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS, FOR THE FORMULATION OF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GATT.

18. "THE VICE-PRESIDENT STATED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS DEPENDED IN PARTICULAR BOTH ON A GENUINELY RECIPROCAL REDUCTION OF TARIFFS AND ON PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FORMULATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GATT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SELECTIVE APPLICATION, SUBJECT TO DUE INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION AND THROUGH THE INVOCATION OF ARTICLE XIX, OF SAFEGUARD ACTION.

19. "THE MINISTER STATED THAT JAPAN CONTINUED TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TO SEEK REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES.

20. "THE MINISTER STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAD ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION OF INITIATING A SWEEPING REVIEW OF ITS EXISTING FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL SYSTEM AND A STUDY OF A NEW SYSTEM BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL TRANSACTIONS SHOULD BE FREE UNLESS SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED. PENDING INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW SYSTEM, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 26, 1978, AN ELEVEN POINT PROGRAMME OF MEASURES FOR LIBERALIZATION AND SIMPLIFYING EXCHANGE CONTROLS. OF THESE MEASURES, THE RELAXATION OF THE STANDARD METHOD OF SETTLEMENT FOR IMPORTS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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WAS IMPLEMENTED FROM MARCH 1. THE OTHER MEASURES ARE
SCHEDULED TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM APRIL.

21. "TRADE MEASURES

THE VICE-PRESIDENT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF JAPAN
INCREASING THE SHARE OF MANUFACTURES IN ITS IMPORTS.

22. "THE MINISTER STATED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO INCREASE
IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURES AND EXPECTED THAT THE TOTAL
VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURES WOULD INCREASE SUBSTAN-
TIALY. THE MINISTER FURTHER EXPECTED THAT THE SHARE
OF THESE IMPORTS IN JAPAN'S TOTAL IMPORTS WHICH HAS BEEN
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DISTORTED SINCE THE SHARP RISE OF OIL PRICES WOULD IN-
CREASE STEADILY AND RETURN WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD
OF YEARS TO A MORE NORMAL LEVEL, UNDER CURRENT INTERNA-
TIONAL ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

23. "THE VICE-PRESIDENT WELCOMED THE FACT THAT JAPAN HAD,

ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, INTRODUCED AUTONOMOUS TARIFF CUTS IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER EXPANSION OF IMPORTS INTO JAPAN, THE MOST RECENT OCCASION BEING ON 4 MARCH 1978.

24. "IT WAS AGREED THAT WHEN THE MTN PACKAGE WAS SETTLED THE POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTING ADVANCE TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND TRADING SITUATIONS.

25. "BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY EXPORTS TO JAPAN, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT COMMUNITY EXPORTERS SHOULD TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE MARKET OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED.

26. "TO FACILITATE SUCH EFFORTS, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR COOPERATION IN EXAMINING PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY COMMUNITY EXPORTERS TO JAPAN.

27. "THE VICE-PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD WELCOME PURCHASING MISSIONS TO THE COMMUNITY FROM JAPAN. THE MINISTER SAID HE WOULD WELCOME SALES MISSIONS TO JAPAN FROM THE COMMUNITY.

28. "BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CONTINUE FURTHER EFFORTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF IMPORT TESTING SYSTEMS ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS.

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29. "IN THIS FIELD, MEASURES TAKEN BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT REFLECTING REQUESTS FROM THE COMMUNITY INCLUDED, INTER ALIA:

-- SIMPLIFICATION OF TYPE APPROVAL SYSTEM FOR IMPORTED AUTOMOBILES.

-- ACCEPTANCE OF IMPORTANT PART OF PRECLINICAL TEST DATA ON PHARMACEUTICALS PREPARED ABROAD.

-- SUBSTANTIAL FACILITATION OF THE IMPORT TESTING PROCEDURES ON DIESEL ENGINES FOR MARINE EQUIPMENT.

OTHER PROBLEMS IN THIS FIELD WOULD BE PURSUED IN CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS.

30. "IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT SYSTEM, THE MINISTER STATED THAT JAPAN INTENDS TO HAVE GREATER RESORT TO TENDER PROCEDURES AND IMPROVED INFORMATION SO AS TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN SUPPLIERS.

31. "IN RELATION TO TRADEMARKS, THE MINISTER STATED THAT COMMUNITY INTERESTS WOULD BE FURTHERED BY CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS AS WELL AS BY AMENDMENTS TO THE JAPANESE TRADEMARK LAW EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE OF THIS YEAR AND BY MAKING IMPROVEMENTS, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW WHICH WILL REFLECT REPRESENTATIONS FROM COMMUNITY INTERESTS.

32. "IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY, IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT COOPERATION WOULD BE CONTINUED IN THAT FIELD.

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33. "AID

THE VICE-PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD INCREASE ITS OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) SUBSTANTIALLY AND RAPIDLY, IN PARTICULAR MULTILATERAL AID, AND FURTHER PROMOTE GENERAL UNTYING OF ITS AID.

34. "REFERRING TO ODA, THE MINISTER REAFFIRMED JAPAN'S INTENTION, (AS DECLARED AT THE CIEC MINISTERIAL MEETING LAST JUNE,) TO MORE THAN DOUBLE ITS AID IN FIVE YEARS, AND STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WOULD MAKE ITS BEST POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO COME CLOSER TO THE AVERAGE
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PERFORMANCE OF OTHER DAC COUNTRIES. THE MINISTER FURTHER NOTED THAT, AS PART OF SUCH EFFORTS, THE PROPOSED ODA FOR JFY 1978 HAD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED, CONTRIBUTIONS TO MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS HAD ALSO CONSIDERABLY INCREASED, AND THE QUALITY OF ODA HAD IMPROVED THROUGH AN INCREASE OF GRANT AID; AND HE STATED THAT JAPAN WOULD PURSUE SUCH EFFORTS VIGOROUSLY IN FUTURE. THE MINISTER ADDED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD PURSUE ITS BASIC POLICY OF GENERAL UNTYING OF ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING UNTIED ODA LOANS INCLUDING QUICK-DISTURBING PROGRAMME ASSISTANCE.

35. "THE VICE-PRESIDENT WELCOMED THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND STATED THAT EC MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD - WHILE STRESSING THE NEED FOR A MORE EQUITABLE BURDEN-SHARING AMONG DONORS- CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO INCREASE EFFEC EFFECTIVELY AND SUBSTANTIALLY THEIR ODA AND TO MAINTAIN ITS HIGH QUALITY. THE VICE-PRESIDENT ADDED THAT IN THE VIEW OF EC MEMBER COUNTRIES THE VOLUME OF ODA SHOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE NOT BE AFFECTED IN THE FUTURE BY BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES AND BALANCE OF PAYMENT PROBLEMS." MANSFIELD

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